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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Chief, Economic Research, CNR

Project Action Memorandum

Project No. *20.106* *6*

DATE: 20 October 1953

TITLE: Consumer Goods in the European Satellites

REQUESTER: Chief, Economic Research for EDAC and ONE

*Completed -
typewritten*

STATEMENT OF PROJECT:

What consumer goods are in shortest supply in the European Satellites?

What is the effect of the increased shipments consumer goods to East Germany or the other Satellites. (See attached memorandum.)

RESPONSIBILITY:

Action Division

Contributing Division

25X1A

D/M

D/S

PROJECT MONITOR: [REDACTED] Ext. 2603

DUE DATES: 1 November 1953 (To St/FR) ✓

St/FR _____

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SUBJECT: Consumer Goods in the European Satellites

1. What consumer goods are in shortest supply in the European Satellites? (This question has been raised by EDAC, who are concerned with the question of propagandizing shipments of consumer goods from the East to the Satellites.)

2. What is the effect of the increased shipments of consumer goods in East Germany or the other European Satellites? (This question has been raised by GHE). The problem here is to find out whether the increased flow of consumer goods, particularly food, to East Germany have had any effect on living standards in the other European Satellites. It may be that most of the food shipments have come from the USSR itself and have been taken from state reserves; in this case the impact on the living standards in the other satellites would be virtually zero. On the other hand, if food balances have been drained off from other satellites, this may raise questions of potential dangers to the Soviets from possible food shortages.

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